(b) the number of crossings proposed to be closed down to avoid accident on such crossings; and

(c) the budget provision made in this regard in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 1233 nos.

(b) 70 nos.

(c) Nil.

Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval and Ahmedabad-Veraval rail lines

836. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ahmedabad-Veraval and Rajkot-Veraval railway lines proposed to be converted into BG and to be extended up-to Kodinar has been taken in hand for execution;

(b) if so, the allocation made so far and proposed to be made during the year 1997-98;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the allocation made so far for the project has been on the decrease which will hamper the completion of the project within the time bound frame; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and how far Government propose to meet the target of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Work on conversion of Rajkot-Veraval from MG to BG and its extension upto Kodinar has been taken up. Ahmedabad-Rajkot is already a BG line.

(b) Rs. 5.50 Crs. is likely to be spent on this work upto 31.03.97. In 1997-98 Rs. 132 crs. has been allotted for this project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

उदयपुर-चित्तौड़ रेल लाइन का गेज परिवर्तन

837. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उदयपुर-चित्तौड़ रेल लाइन के गेज परिवर्तन के लिए शिलान्यास कब किया गया था; और

(ख) इस कार्य को पूरा किए जाने की समय-सीमा कौन सी निर्धारित की गई है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) 18.10.1995 को।

(ख) नौवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान।

Replacement of Rail Bridges on Godavari River

838. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 100 years old railway bridges on Godavari river at Rajamundry in Andhra Pradesh are being replaced;

(b) if so, whether the local Municipality has requested permission to use the old bridges as pedestrain bridges instead of dismantling them; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. One bridge which is 100 years old is being replaced.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के लिए रेल पासों का नवीकरण

839. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को प्रति वर्ष रेलवे के डिवीजनल-कार्यालय से अपने रेल पासों का नवीकरण कराना होता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस शर्त को समाप्त करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) और (ख) स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को जारी मानार्थ कार्ड पास प्रारम्भ में एक वर्ष की अवधि के लिए वैध होते हैं, तत्पश्चात् प्रत्येक वर्ष स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों द्वारा पेंशन भुगतान आदेश प्रस्तुत करने पर नवीकरण किया जाता है। यह इसलिए आवश्यक है ताकि वर्ष दर वर्ष के आधार पर गृह मंत्रालय को डेविट करने और स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों की मौजूदा स्थिति का पता लगाने में भी मदद मिल सके।

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Rules for issue of free railway passes

840. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any rules for the issue of free railway passes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of passes issued since July, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Complimentary Card Passes are issued at the personal discretion of the Minister of Railways, to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, educational and welfare activities of National importance. Besides, cheque passes for specific journeys, are issued in deserving cases with the approval of Minister of Railways or Minister of State of Railways or Members of Railway Board.

(c) Complimentary card passes issued from 01.07.96 to 25.02.97:

(i) Card Pass	—217
(ii) Cheque Pass	—5306

Dismantling of Rail Bridge Across Krishna River

841. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an old rail bridge over the Krishna river near Vijayawada was dismantled on the South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the quantity of steel retrieved; and

(c) the details of the exact resultant financial and commercial gain for the Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 5200 metric tonnes.

(c) The steel girders (12 nos) recovered from the Bridge have been sold at Rs.3.00 crore on 'As-is-where-is' basis by calling tenders.

Detachment of First Class Coaches on Trains

842. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the trains on which first class coaches were detached during the last four years together with the names of the trains to which A.C. 3-tier coaches were attached during this period; and

(b) the names of the trains to which A.C. 3-tier coaches are proposed to be attached during the year 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) During the last four years First class coach has been withdrawn from the folowing Broad gauge Mail/Express trains (till 31.1.1997):

1. 1005/1006 Vidharbha Express
2. [illegible] Express
3. [illegible]
4. [illegible]
5. [illegible] Express
6. [illegible]